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Application Serial No. 10/674,547

Response to Official Action dated 29 June 2005

SEP 29 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following Listing of Claims replaces all previous versions and listings of Claims in the Application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A method for brokering network services by a network broker comprising:

determining from a virtual network operator a first set of network services to be provided thereby;

negotiating from a network company providing a second set of network services on a network operated thereby usage of the network networks and to perform the first set of network services, where at least a subset of the first set of network services is not included in the second set of network services; and from a network company by a network broker;

providing to the virtual network operator usage of the network for performing a first set of networks and network services to a virtual network operator by the network broker.

Claim 2 (Currently amended): The method for brokering network services of claim 1, ~~wherein~~ where the negotiating step includes the step of negotiating network broker negotiates with a plurality of network companies for usage of a

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corresponding network and the network usage step includes the step of providing to the virtual network operator usage of the network of one of the plurality of network companies.

Claim 3 (Currently amended): The method for brokering network services of claim 1, ~~wherein~~ where the first set determining step includes the step of determining from network broker provides to a plurality of virtual network operators a corresponding first set of network services and the network usage providing step includes the step of providing to each of the plurality of virtual network operators usage of the network to perform the corresponding first set of network services.

Claim 4 (Currently amended): The method for brokering network services of claim 3, ~~wherein~~ where the ~~network broker negotiates usage~~ negotiating step includes the step of negotiating with the network company the network usage based upon a combined total usage of the plurality of virtual network operators.

Claim 5 (Currently amended): The method for brokering network services of claim 2, ~~wherein the network broker switches~~ further including the step of switching between different network companies' networks of the plurality of network companies based on pricing, rates, availability, or quality.

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Claim 6 (Currently amended): The method for brokering network services of claim 5, wherein the switching step includes the step of switching between the networks of each of the plurality of network companies is so as to be transparent to the virtual network operator.

Claim 7 (Currently amended): The method for brokering network services of claim 1, ~~wherein~~ further including the step of providing as the network comprises a telephone, wireless, cable, communication, satellite, or computer network or a combination of these networks.

Claim 8 (Currently amended): A method for brokering network services by a network broker comprising:

determining from each of a plurality of virtual network operators a corresponding first set of network services to be provided thereby;

negotiating from each of a plurality of network companies providing a corresponding second set of network services on a corresponding network operated thereby usage of networks the corresponding network and to perform the first set of network services, where at least a subset of the first set of network services is not included in the second set of network services from a plurality of network companies by a network broker;

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providing to each of the plurality of virtual network operators usage of the networks the corresponding network and for performing the first set of network services to a plurality of virtual network operators by the network broker; and

switching between the corresponding networks of the plurality of network companies responsive to predetermined switching criteria networks and network services of different network companies by the network broker.

Claim 9 (Currently amended): The method for brokering network services of claim 8, wherein the network broker negotiates usage negotiating step includes the step of negotiating with each of the plurality of network companies usage of the corresponding network based upon a combined total usage of the plurality of virtual network operators.

Claim 10 (Currently amended): The method for brokering network services of claim 8, wherein the network broker switches between different network companies' networks based on where the switching step includes the step of establishing pricing, rates, availability, or quality as the switching criteria.

Claim 11 (Currently amended): The method for brokering network services of claim 8, wherein where the switching step includes the step of switching between

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the corresponding networks is so as to be transparent to each of the plurality of
virtual network operators.

Claim 12 (Currently amended): The method for brokering network services of claim 8, wherein further including the step of providing as the network comprises a telephone, wireless, cable, communication, satellite, or computer network or a combination of these networks.

Claim 13 (Currently amended): A method for improving network services comprising the steps of:

providing a network broker; and

brokering via the network broker usage by a virtual network operator of a network from operated by a network company for providing a plurality of network services, the plurality of network services provided by the virtual network operator including network services not provided by the network company a virtual network operator by a network broker.

Claim 14 (Currently amended): The method of claim 13, wherein where the network usage brokering step includes the step of brokering broker-brokers usage from a plurality of network companies.

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Claim 15 (Currently amended): The method of claim 13, ~~wherein~~ where the network usage brokering step includes the step of brokering ~~broker-brokers~~ usage for a plurality of virtual network operators.

Claim 16 (Currently amended): The method of claim 15, ~~wherein~~ where the network usage brokering step includes the step of negotiating via the network broker ~~negotiates~~ usage based upon a combined total usage of the plurality of virtual network operators.

Claim 17 (Currently amended): The method of claim 14, ~~wherein~~ including the step of switching between networks of the plurality of network companies at the network broker ~~switches between networks of different network companies~~ based on pricing, rates, availability, service, or quality.

Claim 18 (Currently amended): The method of claim 17, ~~wherein~~ where the switching step includes the step of switching between networks ~~is~~ so as to be transparent to the virtual network operator.

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Claim 19 (Currently amended): The method of claim 17, ~~wherein the switching~~
step includes the step of switching responsive to a predetermined switching is
~~performed according to a schedule or when predetermined~~ switching criteria are
met.

Claim 20 (Currently amended): The method of claim 13, ~~wherein the further~~
including the step of providing as the network comprises a telephone, wireless,
cable, communication, satellite, or computer network or a combination of these
networks.